

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 FEA-02 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

INT-08 SCI-06 DRC-01 IO-14 /192 W

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R 081237Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2695

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG VE

SUBJECT: TWO REFINERIES SUFFER ACCIDENTS

1. SHELL OIL COMPANY'S 390,000 B/D REFINERY AT CARDON, ON GULF OF VENEZUELA, HAD TO BE SHUT DOWN COMPLETELY FEBRUARY 7, AS A RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT AFFECTING ELECTRIC PLANT WHICH SUPPLIES IT WITH POWER. SAME DAY, FIRE BROKE OUT IN PUERTO LA CRUZ AT REFINERY OF VENEZUELAN GULF REFINING COMPANY, WHICH IS OWNED TWO-THIRDS BY MENE GRANDE (GULF) AND ONE-THIRD BY TEXACO. TWO INCIDENTS WERE TOTALLY UNCONNECTED AND CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF COMPANIES INVOLVED INDICATE THAT NEITHER HAS ANY REASON TO SUSPECT SABOTAGE AT THIS TIME.

2. NEITHER ACCIDENT EXPECTED TO HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON OIL SUPPLY TO U.S. DAMAGE TO SHELL REFINERY, WHICH CAUSED BY PENETRATION OF SALT WATER INTO COOLING SYSTEM OF ELECTRIC PLANT, AS RESULT OF RUPTURE OF CONDENSER TUBE, IS BEING REPAIRED RAPIDLY. SHELL EXPECTS TO BRING REFINERY PROGRESSIVELY BACK ON-STREAM BEGINNING FEB 9TH AND HOPEFULLY REACHING FULL OUTPUT AGAIN BY FEB 14, OR, IF UNEXPECTED DELAYS

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OCCUR, BY FEB 21. ACCIDENT AT MENE GRANDE REFINERY WILL

REDUCE OUTPUT OF HIGH OCTANE PRODUCTS BUT COMPANY REPORTS
THAT IT WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON OVERALL PRODUCTION OR
REFINERY THROUGHPUT.

3. PROPERTY DAMAGE FROM THESE TWO ACCIDENTS WAS CONSIDERABLE,
BUT NO ESTIMATES YET AVAILABLE. NO LIVES WERE LOST, BUT
SEVEN (7) WORKERS WERE INJURED IN MENE GRANDE FIRE, NONE
GRAVELY.
FISHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Date: 23 SEP 2002
Review Event:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: ENRG, VE, SHELL OIL COMPANY, GULF REFINING COMPANY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005